

**PSY300-05**  
**Research Methods in Psychology (Winter 2022)**  
Mackinac Hall A2165  
4:30 pm - 5:45 pm MW

**Instructor:** Jerry S. Fisher, Ph.D.

**Email:** [fisherj@gvsu.edu](mailto:fisherj@gvsu.edu)

**Office hours:** 1:00pm – 2:30pm MW & 1:00pm – 2:00pm F (Virtual or In-person at 2115 AuSable Hall).

**Zoom link (for remote class or office hours):** <https://gvsu-edu.zoom.us/j/95283843568?pwd=R0JUei91Snp2V3dyZnNGNiITWHVMZz09>

**Textbook:** Research Methods: Core Concepts and Skills for Psychology v2.1 By: Paul C. Price ISBN (Digital): 978-1-4533-3551-2  
(Link: <https://students.flatworldknowledge.com/course/2597354>)

**Course Objectives:**

The aim of this course is to acquaint students with basic research methods in psychology while exploring practical, theoretical, and ethical issues regarding research design and its implementation in psychology. Upon successful completion of this course students will be able to:

1. describe the details of and summarize the essence of research articles.
2. write clearly and cogently in a scientific way.
3. design an empirical study consistent with the standards of psychological science.

**Lakers Together:**

Classes are held in person in Mackinac Hall A2165. Attendance is required as part of your participation score. Face coverings must be worn during class time, must cover the mouth and nose, and fit snugly against the sides of the face.

**Late Assignments and Missed Exams:**

Late assignments will be accepted, *but* they will be penalized 5% for each 24-hour delay. As such, it is important to turn assignments in on time. Extensions will be only be granted in the event of illness or family emergency (see next section).

**In the Event of Illness or Emergency:**

Make up exams and homework/writing extensions will be available in the event of illness or emergency. If such an event happens, you should (1) contact me before the exam takes place (or the assignment is due) and let me know your situation and (2) provide me with official documentation, such as a physician's note.

### **Holiday and Special Needs:**

Please let me know at the beginning of the semester if you will have to miss a class or reschedule an exam due to a religious holiday. Please also let me know at the beginning of the semester if you have a disability or special needs in the classroom or on exams. I will work with Disability Support Services to make accommodations for you.

### **Grade Breakdown and Scale:**

Your grades will be based on homework assignments (300 points total), participation (100 points total), three exams (600 points total), and five writing assignments (500 points total). Your letter grade will be based on the proportion of these points that you receive out of the total 1500 possible (see the Grade Scale). The homework assignments are hosted by the FlatWorld website. The exams consist of multiple choice and short answer questions. The writing assignments fulfill the SWS designation of this class and are intended to emulate an APA style research proposal.

<b>Grade Item</b>	<b>Points</b>
Flatworld Homework	300
Participation	100
Exam 1	200
Exam 2	200
Exam 3 (Final)	200
Statement of Intent	50
Research Question	50
Lit Review	100
Hypothesis & Design	100
Research Proposal	200
<b>Total</b>	<b>1500</b>

### **Grade Scale:**

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Percent</b>
A	94-100%	C+	78-79%
A-	90-93%	C	72-77%
B+	88-89%	C-	70-71%
B	82-87%	D	60-69%
B-	80-81%	F	0-59%

Grading is NOT on a curve. Your percentage will be rounded to the nearest integer (e.g., 87.4 → 87 or 87.5 → 88). In the interest of fairness, I will follow this rule strictly for all students.

### **SWS**

This course is designated SWS. Completion of WRT 150 with a grade of C or better (not C-) is a prerequisite. SWS credit will not be given to a student who completes this course before completing the prerequisite. SWS courses adhere to certain guidelines. Students turn in a total of at least 3000 words of writing. Part of that total may be essay exams, but a substantial amount of it is made up of essays, reports, or research papers. The instructor works with the students on revising drafts of papers, rather than simply grading the finished piece of writing. At least four hours of class time will be

devoted to writing instruction. At least one third of the final grade in the course is based on the writing assignments. Students must complete the course with a grade of "C" or better in order to receive SWS credit. Students may receive SWS credit for taking the course as Credit/No Credit provided the student passes the course with a "Credit" grade.

**Schedule** (Note: This schedule is subject to change)

Monday	Wednesday	Textbook Ch	Lecture 1 (Monday)	Lecture 2 (Wednesday)	FlatWorld Due	Writing Due
10-Jan	12-Jan	1	Scientific Psychology	Scientific Writing		
No Class	19-Jan	2	No Class: MLK Day	Research Basics	Chapter 1 (1-19)	Statement of Interest (1-19)
24-Jan	26-Jan	3	Research Ethics	Group Discussion	Chapter 2 (1-26)	
31-Jan	2-Feb	4, 5	Theories in Psychology	Measurement	Chapter 3 (2-2)	Research Question (2-2)
7-Feb	9-Feb		Exam Review	<i>Exam 1</i>	Chapters 4 and 5 (2-9)	
14-Feb	16-Feb	11, 6	APA Manuscript	Experimental Research		
21-Feb	23-Feb	7	Nonexperimental	Group Discussion	Chapters 11 and 6 (2-23)	
28-Feb	2-Mar	8, 9	Complex Experimental Designs	Survey Research	Chapter 7 (3-2)	Lit Review (3-2)
No Class	No Class		No Class: Spring Break	No Class: Spring Break		
14-Mar	16-Mar	10	Single Subject	Group Discussion	Chapters 8 and 9 (3-16)	
21-Mar	23-Mar		Exam Review	<i>Exam 2</i>	Chapter 10 (3-23)	Hypothesis / Design (3-23)
28-Mar	30-Mar	12	Data Analysis	Group Discussion		
4-Apr	6-Apr	13	T.Test	ANOVA	Chapter 12 (4-6)	
11-Apr	13-Apr	14	Correlation / Regression	The Big Picture	Chapter 13 (4-13)	
18-Apr	20-Apr		Group Discussion	Exam Review	Chapter 14 (4-20)	Research Proposal (4-20)
	27-Apr		<i>Final Exam (4:00 – 5:50pm)</i>			

**GVSU Course Policies:**

This course is subject to the GVSU policies listed at <http://www.gvsu.edu/coursepolicies>. At this website you can find all policies related to such topics as academic integrity, disabilities, inclusion, and discrimination. Please note that you are responsible for knowing and following the policies that are listed here. It is a good idea to read through them to familiarize yourself with them.

Note that violations of the academic integrity policy, including plagiarism or cheating on exams, will result in the student earning a failing grade for the assignment. If the violation is severe, the student will fail the course.